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Thursday
June 11, 2026
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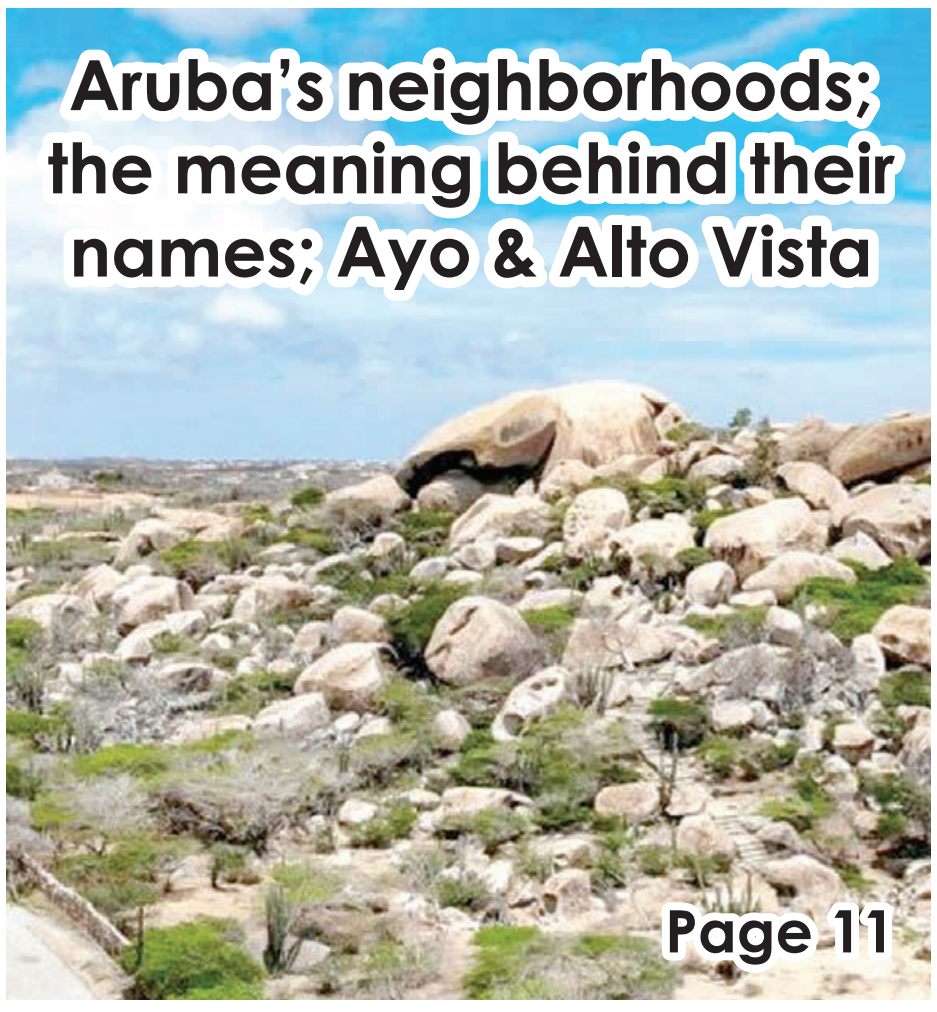

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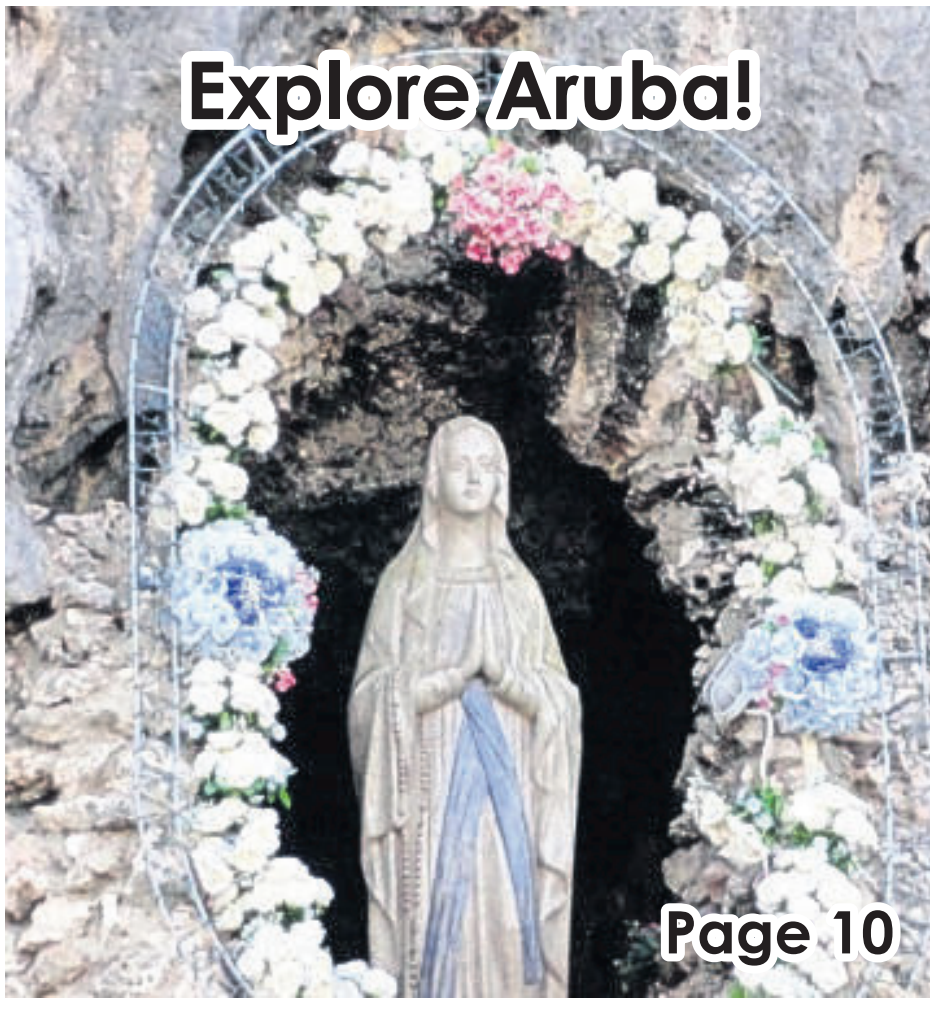
Explore Aruba!



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Bright futures: America's youngest learners spark academic rebound

Young students across the United States are posting significant gains in reading and mathematics. Newly released data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), widely regarded as "The Nation's Report Card," reveals a highly anticipated turnaround in early childhood education.

Average reading and math scores for nine-year-old students rose substantially between 2022 and 2025. The findings offer definitive evidence that targeted academic recovery programs, local tutoring interventions, and classroom resilience are paying off. For educators, parents, and communities nationwide, this milestone signals a triumphant return to form for a generation of learners.

A historic rebound for early education

The positive results mark a clean break from years of post-pandemic academic decline. According to the long-term trend report issued by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the nation's youngest elementary students are closing stubborn achievement gaps at a remarkable pace. "I think this is an optimistic release," stated Matthew Soldner, the acting commissioner of the NCES, in a recent interview with NPR News. Soldner emphasized that the upward trend spans diverse student demographics. Crucially, some of the most encouraging progress occurred among lower-performing students who had previously faced the steepest hurdles.

Why the youngest students are thriving

Education researchers point to several overlapping factors driving this academic renaissance. Chief among them is a generational timeline advantage. The nine-year-olds tested over the recent cycle were just four years old when the 2020 pandemic disrupted global education.

Because they did not enter formal elementary school until districts largely returned to full-time, in-person learning, these students bypassed the chaotic hurdles of remote kindergarten. They began their academic journeys with structural stability. They learned core phonics, foundational literacy, and basic arithmetic in physical classrooms surrounded by peers and teachers.

Furthermore, schools successfully weaponized a multi-billion-dollar federal relief funding wave. Districts deployed intense, evidence-based academic interventions. High-dosage tutoring programs, specialized reading coaches, and extended learning academies have transformed from experimental triage into standard, highly effective classroom practices.

Communities driving local success

The sweeping statistics tell a macro story, but the true victories are playing out in local neighborhoods. Schools across the country have embraced innovative, communal approaches to make learning engaging again.

In districts that historically faced resource constraints, grassroots partnerships have bridged the divide. Community centers, local libraries, and retired teacher networks launched free, localized tutoring blocks. Schools adapted their curricula to focus heavily on "science of reading" models, which emphasize systematic phonics instruction. In mathematics, educators introduced scenario-based tasks that connect abstract numbers to real-world problem-solving. These interactive methods have boosted test scores while successfully revitalizing kids' organic curiosity and joy for learning.

A foundation for the future

While older cohorts such as thirteen-year-olds whose crucial formative years were directly fractured by remote learning continue to face a steeper uphill climb, the nine-year-old data serves as a critical proof of concept. ❑

The hit reality show sparking a nationwide pet adoption boom

A heartwarming new reality television series is singlehandedly transforming the landscape of animal rescue across the United States.

The breakout hit show, "Must Love Dogs," has captured the hearts of millions of viewers by turning the spotlight onto America's shelter crisis. Rather than focusing on traditional reality television drama, the program follows the uplifting journeys of rescue dogs, dedicated foster families, and animal transport networks working tirelessly to find forever homes for strays. The show has ignited a massive, nationwide movement, inspiring thousands of viewers to open their hearts, homes, and wallets to local animal shelters.

Changing the narrative of shelter pets

Historically, media coverage surrounding animal shelters has relied heavily on sad imagery to encourage donations. "Must Love Dogs" completely flips this script. Every episode emphasizes the resilience, charm, and unique personalities of rescue animals, focusing on rehabilitation and the profound joy of pet adoption.

The show provides viewers an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the complex world of animal welfare. It tracks the incredible logistics of multi-state transport networks that move at-risk dogs from overcrowded facilities to regions with high adoption demands. By highlighting the immense dedication of volunteer foster parents who help shy or traumatized dogs learn to trust humans again, the series showcases how a nurturing environment can completely revitalize an animal.

The ripple effect on local communities

The cultural impact of the television show has translated directly into tangible, real-world success for local animal welfare organizations. ASPCA data and independent shelter reports across the country indicate a massive surge in public engagement since the show's debut.

Shelters are reporting unprecedented numbers of adoption applications, alongside a massive influx of citizens signing up to become temporary foster parents. For many municipal shelters that have faced severe overcrowding and tight operational budgets, this sudden wave of community support has provided much-needed relief.

Furthermore, the show has sparked a major fundraising boom. Viewers moved by the on-screen transformations are donating to local medical funds, enabling shelters to expand their veterinary care, purchase enrichment toys, and upgrade aging facilities.❑

"Curiosity expert" Scott Shigeoka (bottom left) gathers with University of Texas, Austin, students in April 2026.

The 'Curiosity Mobile' hits the road to reconnect America

A vibrant purple van is traveling across the United States with a singular, hopeful mission: to heal a fractured nation through the power of radical curiosity.

Dubbed the "Curiosity Mobile," the custom-built vehicle serves as a mobile recording studio, community hub, and conversational laboratory. At the helm is Scott Shigeoka, an author and bridge-building expert who believes that the antidote to America's deep social polarization is not louder debate, but quieter, deeper listening. Driven by the spirit of aloha a philosophy of mutual respect and connection from his native Hawaii Shigeoka is spending the year interviewing everyday citizens, capturing stories of unity, and proving that ordinary Americans have far more in common than they think.

From ideology to humanity

The inspiration for the cross-country tour grew out of a simple observation: while political discourse on television and social media appears hopelessly hostile, face-to-face interactions at the grassroots level tell a very different story.

Shigeoka launched the project to actively counter the dominant cultural narrative of an irreconcilably divided America. Equipped with recording gear, comfortable seating, and a collaborative spirit, the Curiosity Mobile rolls into town squares, farmer's markets, and county fairs. The goal is to create a physical, welcoming neutral ground where people from completely different walks of life can sit down and talk.

Inside the van, Shigeoka conducts recorded interviews that steer clear of partisan talking points. Instead, he invites participants to share their personal histories, their core values, their deepest fears, and their dreams for their children. By shifting the focus from abstract ideological debates to shared human experiences, the project consistently reveals deep-seated commonalities between individuals who vote differently, pray differently, or live in vastly different ZIP codes.

The healing power of 'Deep Curiosity'

At the heart of the journey is a concept Shigeoka calls "Deep Curiosity." Unlike shallow curiosity which seeks quick data points or weaponizes questions to confirm pre-existing biases deep curiosity is an intentional practice of opening one's heart and mind to understand another person's inner world without rushing to judge them.

"Deep curiosity requires vulnerability," Shigeoka explained during a recent tour stop. "It means being willing to be changed by what you hear. It means admitting that you don't know everything about someone just because of a label they wear."

The van acts as an emotional incubator. On any given afternoon, a conservative cattle rancher and a progressive urban activist might find themselves sitting inside the purple vehicle, discovering a shared history of grief, a mutual love for their local landscape, or a collective desire for safer neighborhoods. The tour proves that when people feel seen, heard, and respected, their defensive walls naturally come down, paving the way for authentic connection.

A moving archive of American hope

The stories collected along the highway are being preserved as a living archive of contemporary American resilience. Shigeoka plans to share these audio recordings, photographs, and written journals through a public digital repository and an upcoming book, giving a national megaphone to the quiet majority of citizens who want peace over conflict.

In every state visited so far, the Curiosity Mobile has encountered a profound, widespread hunger for civic connection. ❑

Teens launch "Another Bounce" to break world record and save the environment

PACIFIC PALISADES, CA – While many high school students spend their spring weekends focused on college applications or social plans, a group of twelve dedicated teenagers from the Los Angeles area is tackling a global environmental crisis hidden in plain sight: the staggering waste of racket sports. Known as the Habits of Waste Junior Board, these student-athletes have launched a bold new initiative called Another Bounce, aiming to set a Guinness World Record for the most tennis and pickleballs collected for recycling.

A massive problem on the court

The scale of the issue is immense. According to the group's research, an estimated 500 million non-biodegradable tennis and pickleballs are discarded into landfills worldwide every year. In the United States alone, roughly 125 million tennis balls are tossed annually, each taking over 400 years to decompose.

"We play the sport, we see the waste, and we aren't waiting for adults to fix it," the group stated in a collective call to action. The board includes several top-tier athletes, such as Ford and Boone Casady, the nation's top-ranked U18 junior pickleball doubles team.

Transforming trash into treasure

The Another Bounce campaign is more than just a collection drive; it's a masterclass in circular economy. The teens have partnered with Ridwell in Los Angeles to shred, wash, and pelletize the collected balls. This raw material is then repurposed into a variety of industrial products, including:

Nursery plant pots and plastic packaging.

Carpeting and other commercial textiles.

New pickleballs, through a partnership with BounceBack Pickle in Florida, which creates 100% recycled equipment.

A community movement

The campaign will culminate in a massive Earth Month collection event on April 19, 2026. Residents within a 30-mile radius of Pacific Palisades can drop off their old gear locally, while supporters across the country are encouraged to ship their used balls to the team's warehouse in Santa Monica.

Beyond the world record, the Junior Board is advocating for systemic change. They have already begun speaking at city council meetings and have issued a formal call to major manufacturers including Wilson, Penn, and Franklinto establish national take-back programs.

Join the cause

The teens are currently beating a record of 1,000 recycled tennis balls, but they aim to shatter that number while setting the first-ever official record for pickleballs.❑

Bollywood's Imtiaz Ali bets on Gen Z thirst for love

Mumbai, India

In an era dominated by hyper-violent blockbusters and larger-than-life action spectacles, Indian filmmaker Imtiaz Ali believes young audiences are searching for something deeper love that lasts.

The director behind cult romantic dramas such as "Jab We Met", "Rockstar" and "Love Aaj Kal" told AFP that while Gen Z youth may be growing up in a world of seemingly endless choice, that has only intensified their desire for meaningful connection.

"I think young people... are more desperate to find something that they can hold on to for longer forever perhaps," Ali, 54, said in an interview ahead of the June 12 release of his latest romance, "Main Vaapas Aaunga".

"Everything is so accessible that almost everything has no value. So, I feel this is the right time to have a story of enduring love," he said.

The film, whose title means "I will return", tells the story of a romance that survives nearly eight decades, inspired by real-life accounts from families affected by the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.

This photograph taken on May 27, 2026 shows Bollywood filmmaker Imtiaz Ali speaking about his upcoming film 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' during an interview with AFP in Mumbai.

Ali said the idea emerged after hearing of two men, aged 91 and 95, who travelled to the India-Pakistan border hoping to visit the villages where they had spent their childhoods before the subcontinent was divided at the end of British rule.

The sectarian bloodshed that accompanied the partition killed hundreds of thousands of people and left many families divided.

"Almost everything you will see in 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' is taken from somebody's life," said Ali, calling the film a "collection of stories of love".

Hit action films such as "Animal", "Dhurandhar" and the "Pushpa" series have helped cement the dominance of violent action cinema in Bollywood.

All three films celebrate highly dominant male protagonists who project raw power, aggression and emotional intensity.

But Ali rejects the notion that audiences only want blood and gore.

"The kind of film that works... is a good film, a popular film, a film that people enjoy," he said.

- 'The music in your heart' -

Ali argued that successful films are defined less by genre than by the conviction behind them.

"What makes one film a large film? It's the heart of the maker."

"Main Vaapas Aaunga" features Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh alongside veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah, with Vedang Raina and Sharvari Wagh portraying younger characters navigating questions of love and commitment.

Ali praised Dosanjh's ability to bring warmth and restraint to emotionally complex scenes, particularly opposite Shah's character who struggles with Alzheimer's disease.

For Ali, the film's broader message transcends romance.

"It's about how love can be the music in your heart that keeps you alive through all tragedies," he said. "A love that survives 78 years without meeting or even speaking to the person you love."

Ali hopes that beneath the appetite for action, viewers still seek a deeper meaning.

In one scene, a young person "wonders whether... that kind of love was possible only in the old times", he said.

"It is very difficult for the younger generation to find that kind of love. They are yearning for it, they seek it in films."❑

Julian Barnes wins top Spanish literature prize

Madrid, Spain

Veteran British author Julian Barnes was on Wednesday named the winner of Spain's top literature prize for decades of work that "offers a lucid, warm and compassionate vision of humanity".

The jury of the Princess of Asturias Award for Literature "highlighted his status as an extraordinary storyteller and essayist, gifted with humour and irony", read the official announcement.

Barnes, 80, "uses memory as a shaper of identity without letting go of imagination, with love as an essential principle", the jury added.

"His work recreates, with a pro-European lens, the history of literature, art, music and even gastronomy... which singles him out within an especially brilliant generation of British authors that has marked contemporary literature."

British writer Julian Barnes is seen before the beginning of the French channel TF1 literature program, 06 January 2004 in Paris.

Born in the English city of Leicester in 1946, Barnes has penned 15 novels and 10 works of non-fiction in a career that has earned top literary prizes in the UK and France.

Previous winners of the Princess of Asturias Award include Japan's Haruki Murakami, U.S. writers Siri Hustvedt and Paul Auster as well as Peruvian Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.

"The measure of a prize always lies in the quality of those who have previously received it, and I am more than honoured to join the list of such distinguished names," Barnes said in a statement.

He published his first novel "Metroland" in 1980, about the different paths taken by two childhood friends.

In the 1980s, Barnes penned four crime novels under the name Dan Kavanagh, borrowing the surname of his then wife and literary agent Pat Kavanagh, who died in 2008.

He was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2011 for his novel "The Sense of An Ending", following three previous unsuccessful nominations.

His last novel "Departure(s)" was published in January, days after his 80th birthday, an anniversary he thought he would never reach following a diagnosis for a rare form of blood cancer six years earlier.

Founded in 1981, the Princess of Asturias Awards are the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world and come with prize money of 50,000 euros ($57,750).❑

A woman in charge of the U.N.? Candidates feel it's about time

Geneva, Switzerland
It is high time a woman took charge of the United Nations, argued three of the candidates in the running to take over as secretary-general, at a debate on Tuesday.
Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica and Maria Fernanda Espinosa of Ecuador are all standing to succeed Antonio Guterres, who is stepping down at the end of the year after two five-year terms.
The trio touted their diplomatic credentials during a debate organised by independent organisations in Geneva, the city home to the UN's European headquarters.
"I think, of course, a woman it's about time, isn't it? After 80 years" of the U.N.'s existence, said Espinosa, a former foreign minister.
But the next secretary-general should be "the best woman, not any woman", the 61-year-old added; a "leader with a lot of energy".
Many countries are advocating for a woman to head the UN for the first time, and Latin America is claiming the position based on a tradition of geographical rotation which is not always strictly followed.

Candidates for the selection and appointment of the next United Nations Secretary-General, Costa Rican economist Rebeca Grynspan (L), Former Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Fernanda Espinosa (2nd R) and former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet (R) take part in a debate organized by GWL Voices and hosted by Sudanese-British journalist Zeinab Badawi in Geneva on June 9, 2026.

"Women can bring more humanism," said the Chilean ex-president Bachelet, who is also a former U.N. rights chief.
She likewise said the next chief should be a woman, "but not any woman", saying she was someone unafraid of "risking that what I try doesn't work".
"I'm not afraid of speaking up when it's needed," she added.
Meanwhile Grynspan, 70, the head of the U.N. trade and development agency UNCTAD, said she was running "because I think I am the best person for the job".
The former vice president of Costa Rica is calling for a selection process free from any preferential treatment for women.
The debate was held at the Maison de la Paix, which houses several organisations and is a stone's throw from the U.N. Palais des Nations.
Also invited were the two other declared candidates: Argentina's Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the former president of Senegal, Macky Sall, with the latter sending a short video message.

- U.N. 'irreplaceable' -
The U.N. General Assembly of member states can only elect the secretary-general after a recommendation from the UN Security Council, where the five permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- wield veto power.
The Security Council deliberations are expected to begin in late July, before a General Assembly vote in the following months.
On Tuesday the three candidates in Geneva set out how they would reform the UN, which is facing a lack of funding, multiple conflicts and dwindling faith in multilateralism.
"The U.N. is not the only game in town," said Espinosa.

"But the U.N. is irreplaceable because it's the only universal platform that brings all countries together to face and respond to the challenges of the world of today," she said, highlighting her experience as a former president of the General Assembly.❑

Prince William says UK homelessness 'preventable' with AI

London, United Kingdom
Homelessness in the UK is "entirely preventable" thanks to AI-supported technology, Prince William told the London Tech Week conference on Wednesday.
The heir to the British throne spoke as his homeless charity, Homewards, launched the Homelessness Data Lab a national collaboration it said can improve how data and technology flag "clear warning signs long before" someone loses their home.
This could involve the sharing of personal data on an individual's finances, welfare benefits and health between different bodies, prompting some cautionary comments elsewhere at London Tech Week surrounding data privacy.
"Homelessness is not inevitable, it is entirely preventable, it is predictable," William said during a panel discussion.
The prince said "data and the technology" can be used "to keep people in their homes, their jobs, their communities, families, at school".
"In life, prevention is better than the cure," the royal told a packed conference hall.
Homewards notes that there are more than 430,000 people in the UK experiencing homelessness, half of whom are children.

- Data privacy -
Dan Hughes, a trustee of the property sector charity LandAid that is partnering with Homewards to deliver the data lab, cautioned that data privacy needed to be respected while seeking to tackle homelessness with the help of tech.

"We can throw huge amounts of data at solving this, but a lot of it is about individuals and people," he told a separate London Tech Week event Wednesday.
"We need to make sure that we take best practice on personal data and how we can leverage that information without risking privacy."
Zahra Bahrololoumi, chief executive of Salesforce UK and Ireland, a tech company also involved with the data lab, said "AI will help... identify the interventions that will actually work" in preventing homelessness.
"Our mission is to reduce the administrative burden on frontline workers," she said sat alongside William.

Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales visits the charity Homewards stand as he attends London Tech Week in London on June 10, 2026, to highlight the role of data and technology in preventing homelessness.

"We are applying AI tooling... (that) will enable the frontline worker to focus on the individuals and families that need the support the most," she added.❑

Gabonese artist Naïla Opiangah poses for a photograph in her studio in Accra on May 15, 2026.

Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah's quest to redefine black representation

Accra, Ghana
Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah, whose paintings of black female nudes have been showcased at the Met Gala, believes artists have a key role to play in forging Africa's future.
"When we talk about the development of Africa, we also need to think about how we preserve who we are," she told AFP from her seaside studio in Accra, Ghana, where she lives when she is not in New York.
Her own exploration of identity comes through her depictions of naked black women a blend of the figurative and the abstract painted in sober shades of brown, green and muted blue.
Addressing female nudity is a "rather rebellious act given my origins, the way I was brought up, the people I depict and the community to which I belong", the 31-year-old from Gabon said.
"I found myself thinking: 'Why am I ashamed? It doesn't make sense. Why have I grown up in a system where I have to hide my nudity? Why not simply look at the body for what it is?'"

The question became an obsession.
"The relationship we have with the naked body today is a legacy of colonisation," she said.
She was referring to the straitjacket of modesty imposed by 19th-century European colonial powers on the traditional African societies of the time, and the Europeans' stereotypical view that African women were hypersexualised.
"We didn't have such a sexualised relationship with the human body before we were forced to cover ourselves up."
Opiangah left Gabon aged 18 to study architecture in Chicago.
After graduating, she joined the New York studio of renowned Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye.
The experience, she later said, was "traumatic".
In 2023, detailed allegations surfaced in the Financial Times newspaper, accusing Adjaye of sexual harassment, sexual assault and toxic management.
Adjaye has denied his female accusers' versions of events.
Opiangah found solace in the ARTNOIR community of artists, collectors and patrons promoting black, African and diaspora art.

- Seizing opportunities -
Encouraged by her contemporaries and influential figures in the art world, she turned what had previously been a self-taught hobby into a career as a painter.
Her meeting with acclaimed Ghanaian painter Amoako Boafo her mentor cemented her status as an artist.
Opiangah began catching the attention of collectors and celebrities.
They included US actress and singer Zendaya and Hollywood stylist Law Roach, who wore a jacket Opiangah painted with her signature black female figures to this year's Met Gala fashion's biggest night out.
She also won over Chance the Rapper. When he asked to buy one of her works, she refused to sell it until the star committed to collecting more art.
That eventually led to "Child of God", a music video in which Chance raps while Opiangah paints a huge canvas inspired by the song.

The artwork went on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.
Opiangah is aware she is a role model for other African women.
"I have what I have because I've seized opportunities. For an African woman, self-confidence is a rare commodity," she said.
But she believes she had to leave central Africa to find those opportunities.
In her home country "art is viewed as useless", she sighed. But being in the United States enabled her to realise it was possible "to live life to the full".❑

A sumo wrestler grabs a handful of salt as he takes part in the annual "honozumo", a ceremonial one-day sumo exhibition for spectators held at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on April 15, 2024.

Salt: integral ingredient of sumo stars' art

Paris, France
Paris will be the setting next weekend for one of Japan's oldest martial art forms, sumo wrestling, but an unheralded star of the major two-day tournament will be 100 percent French: the 200 kilogrammes of customised Guerande salt ordered by organisers.
"It's an essential part of sumo wrestling. The tournament cannot take place without salt," David Rothschild the chief organiser of the Paris event, a rarity outside of Japan told AFP.
Salt does indeed play a central role in sumo wrestling, a sport that also has a sacred dimension rooted in the Shinto religion.
Sumo competitions are punctuated by different ritual elements.
"When the wrestler claps his hands, it is to call upon the gods. When he stamps his feet, it is to drive away demons. And the salt is to purify the space," Rothschild explained.

"It is there to ward off anything that might cause trouble: injuries, curses, that sort of thing."
Before each bout, wrestlers throw a generous handful of salt onto the dohyo the 4.55-metre-diameter wrestling ring in a gesture intended to drive away evil spirits, which is often one of the sport's most iconic images.
During the bouts, the wrestlers, known as rikishi, compete on a clay surface covered with a thin layer of salt, which is swept from time to time by the yobidashi (announcers).
Over the course of the Paris tournament, 200kg (440 pounds) of salt will be required for these ancient rituals.
When they were contacted to supply the salt for the event, Meredith and Gautier Ferard, salt producers in the French coastal town of Le Croisic, were somewhat taken aback.
"It's true that it's not a very common request. But I thought to myself: 'Why not?'" Meredith said.

- 'Sacred salt' -
For the tournament the first of its kind in France since 1995 the Ferards received a set of highly precise specifications regarding the salt required.
"They asked for a relatively white colour and, above all, a very fine grain size to prevent it from damaging the skin on the wrestlers' feet," Meredith explained.
"The sodium chloride molecule, as it occurs in nature, is rather cubic in shape. And if they have soft skin with 200kg on top of it, that can hurt!"❑

Planning on visiting Aruba? Make sure you have your ED card!

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to any country, it's important to make sure you have the right documents with you. For Aruba, one document that always seems to confuse people is the ED card. Scammers have taken advantage of the confusion, with dozen of fake and identical website overcharging visitors. To avoid this happening to you, here's a brief guide on how to obtain the ED card the right way: What website to use and how much it actually costs.

The Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. The ED Card has been in a requirement for visitors for decades and in 2020 it was digitalized. In 2024, the government of Aruba implemented a sustainability fee for all visitors of the island, which include a $20 contribution for the improvement, updating and maintenance of the local waste water plant.

First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcardaruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way you can obtain an official ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap!

Next up, make sure you have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should have on hand:

1. A valid passport
2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

We mentioned a $20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that this is a YEARLY fee; so if you plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

We should clarify that the ED card is not a substitute for a visa. Visitors who need a visa for Aruba must apply for both a visa and an online ED card. You can also start applying for the ED card 6 days before your flight.

If you extend your trip, you don't have to reapply for or edit your ED card. However, you must reapply if you missed your flight and/or your flight got canceled and your traveling to the island on another flight.

For more info, visit the official website for ED card of contact the immigration office of Aruba at (+297) 523 7404 or email them at info@dga.aw❑

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!❑

Experience a taste of Belgium in Aruba – Only at L'Avenue, Palm Beach

Nestled in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba, L'Avenue brings a fresh breeze of Belgian charm to the Caribbean. Just over a year since its grand opening, this intimate bistro has quickly made its mark with its warm hospitality, authentic cuisine, and elegant yet approachable ambiance.

Whether you're strolling through Palm Beach after a morning at the beach or looking for a special dinner spot, L'Avenue welcomes you with an inviting terrace, stylish décor, and the comforting aroma of Belgian classics crafted to perfection. It's a place where locals, travelers, food lovers, and beer connoisseurs come together — united by a love for great food, heartfelt service, and that unmistakable European flair.

At L'Avenue, every dish tells a story — one of tradition, seasonality, and bold yet balanced flavors. From crispy croquettes and perfectly poured Belgian beers to steaming pots of fresh mussels flown in weekly, the menu offers something both comforting and surprising.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience!

But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of $29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

More Than a Bistro — A Culinary Destination

L'Avenue is more than just a place to eat — it's a culinary destination. A thoughtfully curated menu, an extensive selection of premium Belgian beers, and an atmosphere that balances European elegance with island ease make it one of the most talked-about dining spots in Aruba.

Whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a romantic dinner, or a celebratory evening with friends, L'Avenue delivers a dining experience that's as memorable as it is delicious.

Open daily for lunch and dinner

Located in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba

Come discover Belgium's best — right here at L'Avenue. ❑

Rock stacking and its harmful effects

(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children.❑

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Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
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Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands the most usual color aries from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

Explore Aruba!

(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Arikok National Park

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In total, the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Natural Bridge

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the

Natural Bridge. For thousands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 meters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby Bridge also meriting a visit. The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visiting. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas. A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresita church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location.❑

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for $70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.❑

Sources: Etnia Nativa

Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-feet ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

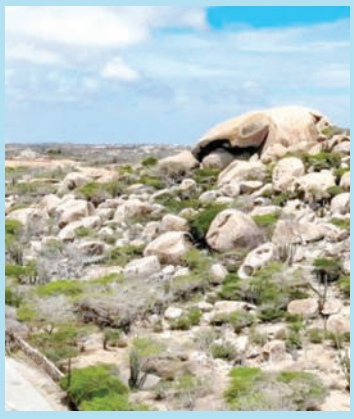
The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature.❑

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista



(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamento spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.❑

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.

CROSSWORD

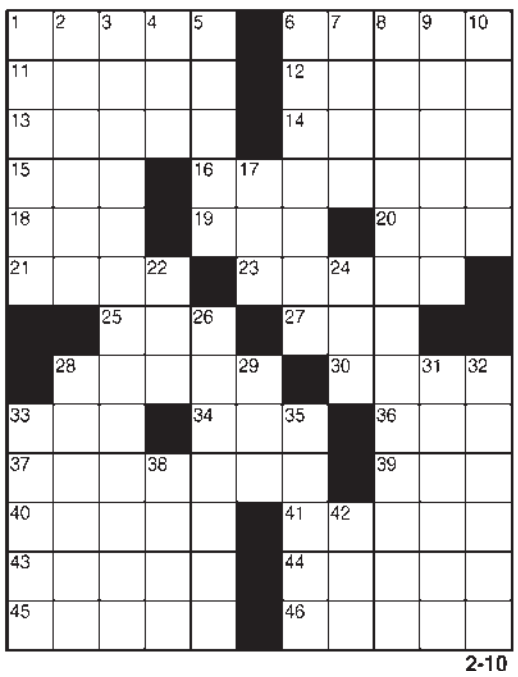
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cellist Casals
6 Steel rod in concrete
11 Dined at home
12 "Skyfall" singer
13 First odd prime
14 Radials, e.g.
15 Singer Waits
16 Try
18 Aussie bird
19 Rap's — Nas X
20 High times
21 Cincinnati team
23 Salon request
25 Phone download
27 1949 film noir classic
28 Takes to the sky
30 Capital on a fjord
33 Decimal base
34 Alias letters
36 Crone
37 Monogram unit
39 Owned by us
40 Ties down
41 Baseball manager Joe
43 Bert's buddy
44 Nay voters
45 Grating sounds
46 Valentine's gift

DOWN

1 Glib talk
2 Not out
3 Bulbs for cooks
4 Fiction
5 "Love Story" actor
6 Upset
7 TV's Falco
8 Summer wear
9 City of Syria
10 Takes a breather
17 Pewter component
22 Massage setting
24 Court
26 Commends
28 Lady of Spain
29 Reggae forerunner
31 Hugh of "House"
32 Fiona, for one
33 Oven feature
35 Church sight
38 Stumble
42 Lennon's love



2-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-10 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

OGX THQX RX WNQX ZRZM

NK OGX HUTM THQX RX LXXJ.

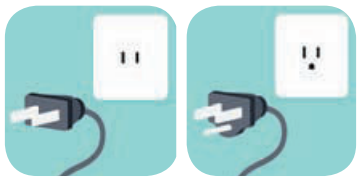
— XTDXAO GFDDZAE

Cryptoquote: IF YOU DO NOT LOVE ME I SHALL NOT BE LOVED! IF I DO NOT LOVE YOU I SHALL NOT LOVE. — SAMUEL BECKETT

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

6								3
	4		6	3		1	7	
		5	4	7				
	1		5	2		9	6	7
	9				8			
		2		9	6			8
				4	7			
9		4				7		5
		1				8		

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/11

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Answer to previous puzzle

1	8	5	6	2	9	3	4	7
2	4	9	3	5	7	1	6	8
3	6	7	1	8	4	9	2	5
6	5	8	2	4	3	7	1	9
7	1	4	9	6	5	2	8	3
9	3	2	7	1	8	6	5	4
8	2	3	4	9	6	5	7	1
4	9	6	5	7	1	8	3	2
5	7	1	8	3	2	4	9	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/10

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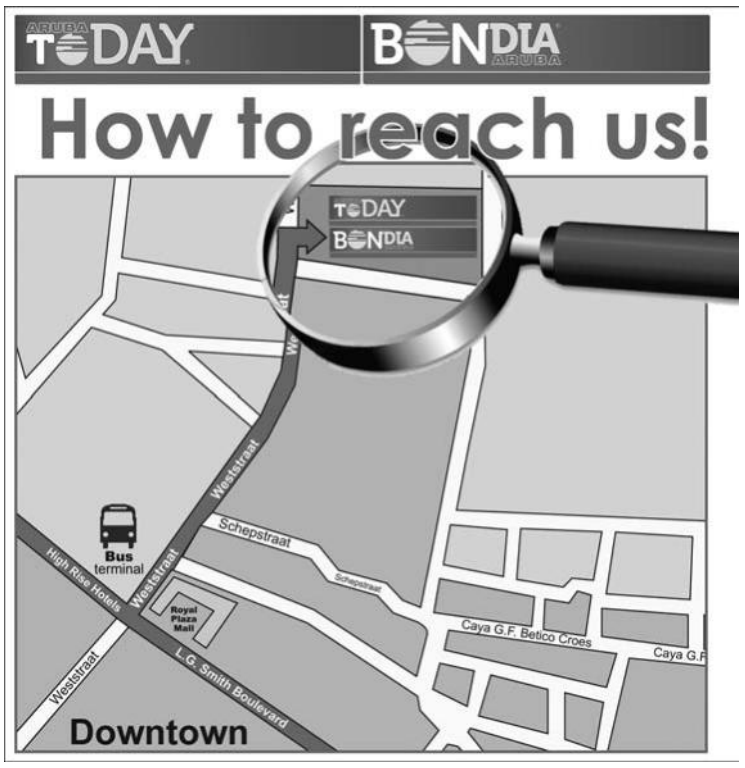
OpenAI, Anthropic warn of AI dangers with an eye on Wall Street

San Francisco, United States
OpenAI and Anthropic, two AI companies heading for stock market debuts along with Elon Musk's SpaceX, are sharpening their warnings about the risks of AI -- even as they race to outpace each other with ever more powerful technology.
Critics say it amounts to "fear-mongering," or a calculated move to win over investors.

- Should we worry? -
Both San Francisco companies makers of ChatGPT and Claude are focused on the same scenario: so-called recursive self-improvement, a stage where AI systems could essentially design and train the next generation of AI with little human involvement.
Anthropic called that scenario plausible but uncertain last week. OpenAI went further Monday, predicting it would arrive by March 2028.
Is that a good thing or a bad thing? OpenAI treats it as a goal, seeing it as an automated researcher that could speed up scientific discovery.
The ChatGPT creators promise a personal AI for every person on Earth something they say could prove more transformative than electricity or the car.
Like those technologies, they argue, AI can be made safe once society builds the right guardrails, just as it eventually developed the seatbelt, speed limits and driver's licenses.
Anthropic also points to potential breakthroughs in medicine, technology and the economy, but sounds more cautious, openly warning of the risk of "loss of control."

- Hit the brakes, together -
"You want the option to be able to take your foot off the gas and put your foot on the brake"," Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark said last week.
Both companies have floated the idea of international coordination to slow down the whole industry together including Chinese rivals and Google.
That runs directly against the current dynamic, in which each lab is pushing hard to attract the massive investment needed to stay ahead.
Anthropic last week proposed a global coordination system to temporarily suspend the development of frontier AI but only if no competitor takes advantage of the pause to get ahead.
That condition is widely seen as nearly impossible to meet anytime soon.
OpenAI on Monday also introduced the idea of a potential multilateral body that could "slow frontier development if necessary."
Neither idea is new. OpenAI has been calling since 2023 for an international AI authority similar to the IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, with the power to limit the "rate of growth in AI capability."
Today, both OpenAI and Anthropic are putting out new models roughly every four to six weeks.
In February, Anthropic updated its internal guidelines on what behaviors it will never allow.
The revised version now has two columns: what the company refuses to do on its own, and what it thinks the whole industry should avoid, but won't commit to unilaterally.❑

This photograph shows a figurine in front of the logo of the U.S. artificial intelligence safety and research company Anthropic during a photo session in Paris on February 13, 2026.



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad	San Nicolas
Hospital	IMSAN
7:00 pm/10:00pm	24 HOURS
Tel. 527 4000	Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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World's largest whale graveyard discovered by Chinese sub

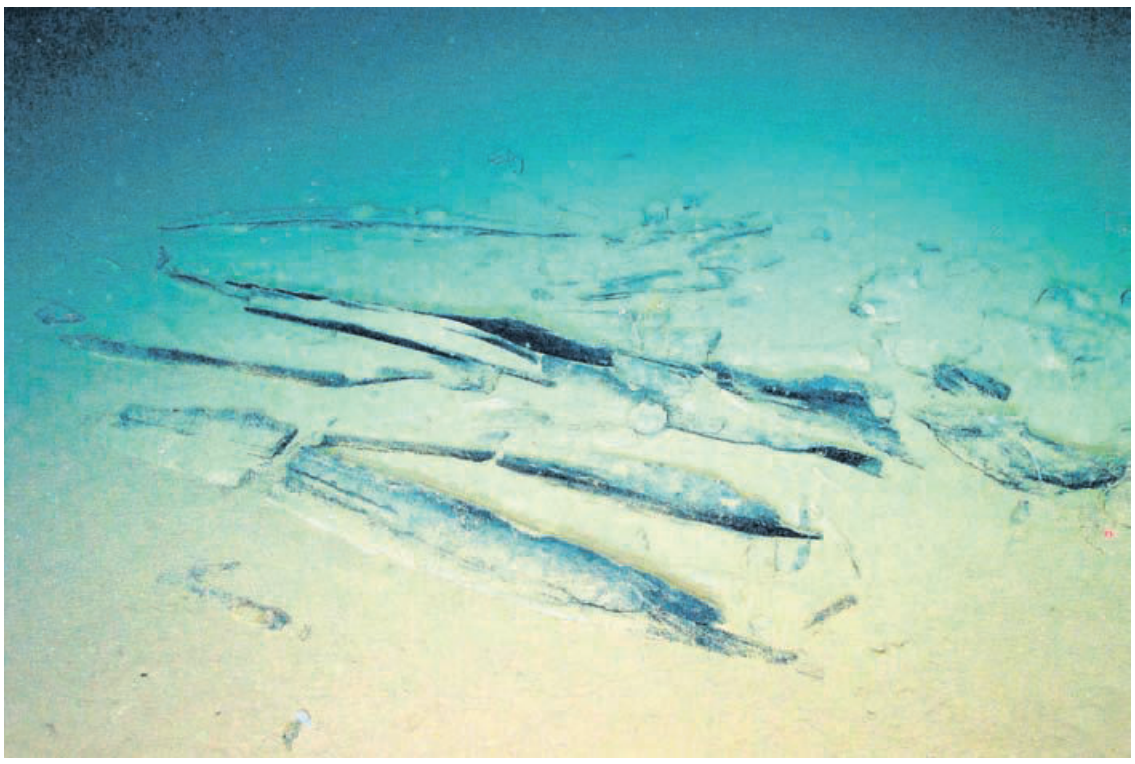
Paris, France

The world's largest whale graveyard has been discovered at the bottom of the Indian Ocean by Chinese scientists, who found that the vast expanse of both new and ancient carcasses supports huge communities of deep-sea life.

It is also the deepest and oldest known whale graveyard on Earth, according to research published in the journal Nature on Wednesday, with some fossils dating back 5.3 million years.

From inside a small submersible, the Chinese researchers saw an array of strange animals many believed to be new to science living off the whale carcasses.

A new, though extinct, species of whale was also identified among the nearly 500 skeletons found up to 7,000 meters deep along a 1,200 kilometer corridor of bones in the Indian Ocean west of Australia.



This handout photograph taken by Global TREnD, IDSSE, seven kilometers under the sea on the deep seafloor of the Diamantina Zone in the Indian Ocean in 2023 and released on June 10, 2026, shows whale bones at the world's biggest known whale graveyard discovered by the Chinese submersible Fendouzhe.

Lead study author Xiaotong Peng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences told AFP that the researchers were "astonished" when the scale of their discovery became clear.

It was known that when whales die and drop to the seafloor, their sunken bodies called "whale falls" provide a source of food to bottom-dwelling creatures.

"But discovering a necropolis of this scale was completely unexpected: the size of distribution, the depth and the age range were far beyond anything we had imagined," Xiaotong Peng said.

The researchers had several theories for why so many whales died in this particular corridor, including that it is a popular foraging area and has a V-shaped trench that funnels carcasses to the ocean's floor.

- 'Truly incredible experience' -

For the discovery, the Fendouzhe submersible carried out 32 dives in 2023 though what it found was only revealed in Nature on Wednesday.

The sub took up to three people on the dives, collecting the fossil samples using robotic arms.

Study co-author Peng Zhou said witnessing the whale graveyard "was a truly incredible experience".

"The vibrant ecosystems we saw offered a completely different perspective on this otherwise dark and cold ocean floor."

Among the animals they discovered living off the carcasses were jellyfish, worms, snails, crustaceans, brittle stars and molluscs called bivalves.

Extrapolating from the number of bones they found, most of which were from beaked whales, the scientists estimated there could be more than 10 million carcasses across the area called the Diamantina Zone.

The soft tissue and lipids inside that many carcasses "translates to roughly 6.7 million tons of sequestered carbon," Xiaotong Peng said.

This provides an immense source of sustenance for animals, similar to how hydrothermal vents create their own ecosystems on the ocean floor.

Some of the animals seen by the scientists also live in hydrothermal vents and cold seeps, suggesting whale carcasses could help connect these deep-sea communities to each other.

While this is by far the largest whale graveyard yet found, fossils found during trawling suggest there could be others off South Africa, the Iberian peninsula and the Crozet islands, according to the study.❑

Climate change-fuelled storm decimated world's rarest great ape: study

Jakarta, Indonesia

Climate change-fuelled landslides wiped out nearly one in ten of the world's rarest great ape species on Indonesia's Sumatra island, scientists said Wednesday.

A single weather event last November pushed the Tapanuli orangutan of which there are fewer than 800 left in the wild even closer to extinction, according to a study published in the science journal Current Biology.

An estimated 58 Tapanuli orangutans died as a result of mudslides triggered by heavy rains during Cyclone Senyar about 11 percent of the total living in the region, or seven percent of the estimated overall wild population.

The flooding killed more than 1,000 people.

Only scientifically classified as a species in 2017, Tpanulis are incredibly rare, confined to a small range in Sumatra.

"This level of loss is substantial for a species with such a small total population," said Erik Meijaard, chief scientist at Borneo Futures, a conservation initiative.

This undated handout photograph taken by the Orangutan Information Centre and released on June 10, 2026 shows the Tapanuli orangutans over a tree in the Batang Toru forest in Indonesia's North Sumatra.

The floods also wiped out sources of Tapanuli food and shelter.

Scientists analyzed satellite evidence of landslide scars in the Batang Toru Ecosystem home to the largest remaining population of the apes.

They found that about 8,300 hectares of forest more than 11 percent of the area were affected.

The lost forest area was overlaid with orangutan density maps to come up with an estimate of population loss.

"The loss of an estimated 58 Tapanuli orangutans to a single climate-induced landslide event is a devastating demographic shock to the world's rarest great ape," said researcher Jatna Supriatna of Indonesia University.

Environmentalists have long campaigned against industrial activity in Batang Toru, particularly a hydroelectric dam and gold mine.

The highland homes inhabited by Tapanulis are not their preferred habitat, but it is where remaining orangutans have been pushed by human development elsewhere.

"To prevent the first modern extinction of a great ape species, Indonesia must permanently protect the Batang Toru ecosystem," Jatna said.❑

Staal shines as Carolina beat Vegas 5-3 to level Stanley Cup Final

Los Angeles, United States
Jordan Staal scored two goals, including the game winner, as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Vegas Golden Knights 5-3 on Tuesday to pull level in the Stanley Cup Final.
The Hurricanes will return to Raleigh, North Carolina, for game five on Thursday at 2-2 in the NHL best-of-seven championship series.
Carolina had not lost two games in a row since mid-January and kept that run intact with a dominant third period.
Staal, Carolina's 37-year-old captain, flipped a backhanded shot after falling over that went past Vegas goaltender Carter Hart to give the Hurricanes a 4-3 lead with 13:28 remaining.
"I knew I had it," Staal said. "My goodness. My feet were twisted over each other. I ended up getting enough wood on it. I did see it just poke in. I had a great feeling. A big goal."
It was Staal's second goal of the game and his fifth of the final, more than any other player.
"He's everything," Carolina left wing Taylor Hall said. "He takes every important faceoff, special teams, five-on-five. He's our captain, our leader and really such a calming influence for us.

Jordan Staal #11 of the Carolina Hurricanes scores a goal against Colton Sissons #10 and Carter Hart #79 of the Vegas Golden Knights in the third period of Game Four of the 2026 NHL Stanley Cup Final at T-Mobile Arena on June 09, 2026 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"He's such a chill guy. Nothing really ruffles his feathers. His game is perfectly suited to the playoffs."
A first-period goal had already made Staal the oldest player to score in the first four games of a Stanley Cup Final.
He is the first to score five in the first four games since Pittsburgh legend Mario Lemieux in 1992.
"I'm happy to contribute that way," Staal said. "I have a lot of other areas I've got to contribute and play well in but when the puck is going in it feels good, no question.
"Good timing. I want to keep that up and find ways to get wins."

Vegas pulled Hart for an extra attacker in the dying minutes, but Nikolaj Ehlers scored an empty-net goal for Carolina with 55 seconds remaining to seal the victory.
Carolina goaltender Brandon Bussi made his first career playoff start as 'Canes goalie Frederik Andersen was benched after surrendering four goals in the second period of game three.
"Kids grow up, they dream about doing something like this," Bussi said.
"Excited for the win and to be going back to Raleigh."
Carolina grabbed the lead on Logan Stankoven's backhand goal only 66 seconds into the game and Jackson Blake took a Hall pass and scored 2:22 later for a 2-0 lead.
Mark Stone answered for Vegas with 7:22 elapsed on a breakaway goal, angling a shot past Bussi.

Staal batted in a rebound off Shayne Gostisbehere's shot for a power play goal after 12:48 of the first period for a 3-1 Hurricanes lead.
"The boys grinded and battled hard," Staal said. "We got a few bounces for sure but we worked for them. Proud of the group. Big road win and a lot of work ahead."
William Karlsson blasted a shot past Bussi 4:22 into the second period to lift Vegas within a goal.
Brett Howden netted the equalizer on a two-on-one breakaway with 2:52 remaining in the period, his 14th goal of the playoffs.
It marked the first Cup Final with a multi-goal deficit erased in each of the first four games and set the stage for the closing drama.
The Golden Knights won their only Stanley Cup in 2023 while Carolina only took the trophy in 2006.❑

Breakaway king Simmons escapes with win at Tour Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes

Montrond-les-Bains, France
American champion Quinn Simmons of Lidl-Trek won stage four of the Tour Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes on Wednesday when a breakaway group made it home just ahead of a charging peloton at the thermal spa resort village of Montrond-les-Bains.
With his long red hair and beard and decked out in his stars and stripes US road champion jersey, Simmons has been a regular and easily recognizable feature in breakaway attempts, and this was his first win in France and third at World Tour level.
"You never know when your last chance to win in the national jersey is, you have to earn it back every year, and I'm so proud to race in it," said Simmons, whose escapes on the Tour de France last year brought him to public attention.
The 25-year-old's efforts ended in a stage win after the peloton were bamboozled by a prolonged acceleration in the escape party who hit high speeds over the final kilometers.
"I've never won a sprint before, so that's pretty cool," said Simmons, who described the win as payback for his efforts training in Colorado.
Also part of the break that formed on the second of six modest climbs along the 167km route was Finn Fisher-Black of Red Bull-Bora-Hansgrohe, who finished second, and third-placed Matteo Vercher of TotalEnergies.
Belgian Wout Van Aert won the sprint behind the break for fourth, just a few seconds adrift, while the overall leader's yellow jersey remains with Frenchman Alex Baudin of EF Education-EasyPost.
Ineos Grenadiers pair Kevin Vauquelin and Oscar Onley are second and third at 12sec, while pre-race favorite Paul Seixas is 10th at 1min.
The race formerly known as the Criterium du Dauphine is one of the final stage events before the Tour de France and a major form indicator for the Grand Boucle in July.❑

Lidl-Trek's U.S. rider Quinn Simmons celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 4th stage of the Tour Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes cycling race (formerly known as the Criterium du Dauphine), 167,4km between Le Puy-en-Velay and Montrond-les-Bains, central France, on June 10, 2026.

Serena return could be cut short after injury to doubles partner

London, United Kingdom
Serena Williams's long-awaited return to competitive tennis was left in the balance Wednesday after doubles partner Victoria Mboko retired through injury in her opening singles match during the WTA tour event at Queen's Club.
Tennis great Williams, 44, made her eagerly-anticipated comeback at the London venue on Tuesday, securing a win alongside Canadian teenager Mboko in their first doubles match.
The duo defeated third seeds Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Erin Routliffe 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.
They are now scheduled to face Leylah Fernandez and Laura Siegemund on Thursday in the grass-court event, a warm-up for Wimbledon.

U.S. player Serena Williams plays on the practice courts at the HSBC WTA tennis Championships at Queen's Club in west London on June 10, 2026.

Mboko, who received a bye into the round of 16 for the Queen's singles, was down a set but leading Karolina Pliskova 4-3 in the second when she slipped behind the baseline trying to return a shot.
The stumble effectively forced her into doing the splits, drawing a gasp from the crowd.
Mboko was visibly upset as she spoke to the attending medical staff.
She got to her feet but the official reason subsequently given for her retirement was a left knee injury, with Mboko heard saying on television cameras "there is no stability right now".

- 'Such a shame' -
Mboko buried her face behind a towel as she continued to consult her team, before the umpire eventually announced her retirement, with the crowd giving the 19-year-old a sympathetic reception.
"It's such a shame," said Pliskova, adding: "Of course, this is not the way we want to win. Hopefully she is going to be fine for Wimbledon."
If Mboko, ninth in the women's singles rankings, withdraws from the doubles, that will be the end of Williams's tournament as well.
Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, stunned the sporting world a week ago with her shock announcement she would compete at Queen's, where she is only playing in the doubles.
"It was so fun. I had so much fun playing with Victoria," she said after Tuesday's win.
Williams said her decision to return to competitive tennis for the first time since losing to Ajla Tomljanovic at the 2022 US Open was inspired by a desire to play in front of her children.
Her two young daughters, Olympia and Adira, as well as husband Alexis Ohanian were all courtside at Queen's on Tuesday.
Williams is also scheduled to play doubles at the Berlin Open next week but has yet to decide if she wants to feature in the Wimbledon doubles.

But she played down the prospect of featuring in the singles at Wimbledon where she has won the title seven times when she faced the media on Sunday.❑